

PATENT

Rev 12/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICERECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

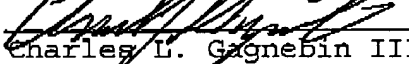
MAR 15 2004

OFFICIAL

In re application : José Duez et al.  
Application No. : 10/009,885  
Filed : January 22, 2002  
For : A NIB AND METHODS OF TREATING AN  
ELONGATE ELEMENT DESIGNED TO FORM SUCH  
A NIB  
Examiner : Tuan N. Nguyen  
Attorney's Docket : BDL-364XX

TC Art Unit: 3751

\*\*\*\*\*  
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via  
facsimile to Examiner Tuan N. Nguyen, TC Art Unit 3751, Fax No.  
(703)872 9306, on 3-15-4.

By:   
Charles L. Gagnebin III  
Registration No. 25,467  
Attorney for Applicants

\*\*\*\*\*

AMENDMENT

Via Facsimile  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 15, 2003  
please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.